

On September 10, 2004, David Irving, a well-known Holocaust denier, came to CU as a guest speaker.

He was invited by a junior, who is now a graduate student in the creative writing program.

His name is Josh McNair.

Although the David Irving story was reported in the *Camera*, and there's a photo of Josh and David Irving shaking hands posted on Irving's website (fpp.co.uk), Josh is probably best known, on the internet at least, for his essay entitled "Organization, Cooperation, and Action."

You can find it on stormfront.org, a popular forum for white supremacists (Josh's pen name is "Deadmansdeeds.")

The essay contest is only open to white people. David Duke, the founder of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the most prominent white supremacist in the United States, sponsors the competition. "Organization, Cooperation, and Action" won first prize: \$1,125 of scholarship money.

Josh writes, "Once we have eliminated the tireless sickness that has burrowed itself within us, the problems our society faces will suddenly become manageable. . . For years patriotic Whites have been sitting back and stomaching all the miserable progress of our society, complaining amongst themselves and talking about the day we take our society back."

Despite Josh's careful and ambiguous language, his true intentions become clear half way through his essay: ". . .can you imagine the change in our society if instead of Feminists and Communists in the universities we had real White Patriots? . . . a member of the faculty or admissions staff at any of our universities can be invaluable to our future."

Did I mention Josh is on the university staff, teaching writing to undergraduates?

He continues by suggesting that whites

follow the example of the Jews: ". . . we cannot ignore the tremendous success of that most solid, focused, and thus most powerful group in our midst today and how they amassed the supremacy they now enjoy."

While he does not explicitly use the word "Jew" in his essay, if one reads in it context with some of my other favorite Josh-isms from Stormfront, his fear of Jews is quite apparent.

For example: "The reason why White Nationalists do not like Communism is because we, seemingly unlike the rest of the White public, do not want to be slaves of the Jews . . ." Another good one: "By the way, if you're so hot to learn a non-White language, why don't you scrap Mandarin and put that effort into learning Hebrew? We could sure use more dedicated White Nationalists keeping a closer eye on the Chosen."

That last one always cracks me up. Josh continued to post these little tidbits of wisdom all the way into December of 2005.

Anyways, Josh ends his essay with an eloquent and off-putting finale: "It is necessary for our people to begin working with one another for our future, through meticulous, systematic cooperation and organization. Only then can our influence reach such formidable might that we can implement our third and most crucial task: action!"

Josh avoids detailing what "action" he's referring to, except to say that it will require "formidable might." This sounds like violence to me, but who knows? Maybe he's one of those nice white-supremacists.

I guess we'll find out once his brilliant plan springs to life.

When I read Josh's essay and his poetry featured in *Illiterate*, I could tell that he's intelligent. But I also get the sense that he has no idea what he's doing. He isn't the next Hitler. He's a mixed up kid who wants to feel like he's part of something.

Josh also suffers from paranoia. Not only is he convinced that Jews have taken over the world, he also uses the terms “Jew,” “Feminist,” “Communist,” and “Leftist” totally interchangeably. Josh is surrounded by his imagined, shape-shifting oppressors.

A year after Josh brought David Irving to CU, Irving was put on trial in Austria for denying the Holocaust. When he realized he was going to be sent to jail, he completely reversed his views and said, “I am not a Holocaust denier. My views have changed.” However, the court was not convinced, and he was sentenced to three years in prison (he was released after one).

I worry that Josh will try the same tactic, so I want to make this clear:

Regardless of whether or not Josh still believes that whites need to eliminate “the tireless sickness that has burrowed itself within us,” the fact remains that he wrote an essay advocating “action” against people of color, and he brought an international racist historian to CU.

Josh’s latter effort was destructive in particular to CU’s small Jewish community, but it also contributed to an atmosphere of racial hatred among all CU students.

Apparently not many people read the 2004 story about Josh in the *Camera*, or if they did, they didn’t care. But I care. I’m pissed off, and I don’t want Josh to get away with letting this blow over and disappear into the past. I want him to answer for what he’s done.

My initial emotional response to hearing about Josh was to wish for him to be kicked out of CU, ostracized from the Boulder community,

and forced to live in the mountains until he died old and alone.

But now I’ve changed my mind. While I don’t think every racist person on earth should have their pants yanked down, I do think that a racist *activist* like Josh can be challenged fairly in a public dialogue.

Josh, as amusing as it would be to watch you try to teach a class after this, I don’t wish you any real harm. But I do want you to explain yourself to everyone at CU so we know where you stand. Sort of like how sex-offenders have to register.

The *Colorado Daily* would be a good forum for your response. If you’d rather send it to me, I will happily print it in my next issue, but it has to be under five words.

I disagree with most of your beliefs (namely that all non-white people are conspiring against you), but you should still be able to say and think whatever you want. You were right when you said that the First Amendment is only invoked when it’s convenient for the powers that be. Free speech laws were created to protect people with controversial beliefs—popular ideas don’t need protection.

Someone once said to me, “I think you’re an asshole, and I don’t agree with anything you say, but I would die to protect your right to say it.” That’s how I feel about you, except for the dying part.

The First Amendment hasn’t always been there for me either.

But now you’re the one in trouble. Big trouble, young man. So what do have to say for yourself?

## THREE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. *Josh, if you can manage to keep your job after this, I want you to be my PR guy.*

2. *“Joshua” is a Hebrew name, you shmuck.*

3. *I don’t want to call anyone out without at least making it fair. My name is Max Karson, and I am a homosexual.*

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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